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Ont. Ministry of Colleges & Universities
Statements & speeches.

STATEMENT BY

THE HONOURABLE HARRY C. PARROTT, D.D.S

MINISTER OF COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

REGARDING

FEEs CHARGED TO FOREIGN STUDENTS BY ONTARIO

POST-SECONDARY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

TO THE LEGISLATURE

MAY 4, 1976



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MR. SPEAKER:

I WOULD LIKE TO ANNOUNCE TO THE HOUSE A NEW POLICY WHICH WILL BE ADOPTED BY THIS GOVERNMENT REGARDING FOREIGN STUDENTS IN THE COLLEGES OF APPLIED ARTS AND TECHNOLOGY AND PROVINCIALLY ASSISTED UNIVERSITIES.

IN RECENT YEARS THERE HAS BEEN MOUNTING PUBLIC CONCERN REGARDING THE COST TO THE ONTARIO TAXPAYERS OF EDUCATING FOREIGN STUDENTS IN OUR POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTIONS.

FURTHERMORE, I AM SURE THE HONOURABLE MEMBERS ARE WELL AWARE OF THIS GOVERNMENT'S CONCERN TO RESTRAIN THE GROWTH OF GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURES.

UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES WE HAVE RE-EXAMINED THE COSTS TO SOCIETY OF EDUCATING FOREIGN STUDENTS IN ONTARIO AND HAVE CONCLUDED THAT THE PROPORTION OF THESE COSTS BORNE BY THE ONTARIO TAXPAYER SHOULD BE REDUCED.

AT THE PRESENT TIME, UNDER THE UNIVERSITY OPERATING GRANTS FORMULA, ALL STUDENTS ENROLLED IN A GIVEN COURSE PAY THE SAME FEE, WHICH IS APPROXIMATELY \$585 PER TWO-TERM ACADEMIC YEAR.

WE INTEND TO INCREASE THE FORMULA FEE APPLIED TO FOREIGN STUDENTS TO \$750 PER TERM OR \$1,500 PER TWO-TERM ACADEMIC YEAR FOR ALL UNIVERSITY PROGRAMS. THE FORMULA FEE APPLIED TO STUDENTS REGISTERED FOR THREE CONSECUTIVE TERMS WOULD

BE \$2,250.

I HAVE ASKED THE UNIVERSITIES TO PASS ON THE EFFECTS OF THIS INCREASE IN FORMULA FEES TO THE STUDENTS CONCERNED.

IN THE COLLEGES OF APPLIED ARTS AND TECHNOLOGY, ALL STUDENTS CURRENTLY PAY TUITION FEES OF \$250 PER TWO-TERM ACADEMIC YEAR. I HAVE INSTRUCTED THE COLLEGES TO INCREASE FEES FOR NEW FOREIGN STUDENTS TO \$750 PER TWO-TERM ACADEMIC YEAR.

THE CHANGE WILL TAKE EFFECT IN THE COLLEGES IN SEPTEMBER, 1976. IT WILL BE APPLIED TO THE UNIVERSITIES IN JANUARY, 1977.

THE NEW POLICY WILL APPLY ONLY TO FOREIGN STUDENTS BEGINNING PROGRAMS FOR THE FIRST TIME. FOREIGN STUDENTS WHO HAVE COMPLETED ONE OR MORE TERMS WILL CONTINUE TO PAY THE SAME FEES AS CANADIAN CITIZENS AND LANDED IMMIGRANTS. THIS SITUATION WILL CONTINUE UNTIL JANUARY, 1980 OR UNTIL THEY HAVE COMPLETED THEIR CURRENT PROGRAM OF STUDY, WHICHEVER COMES FIRST.

THE CHANGE IN POLICY FOR FOREIGN STUDENTS WILL HAVE NO IMPACT ON THE FEES PAID BY CANADIAN CITIZENS, NOR WILL IT APPLY TO LANDED IMMIGRANTS, WHOSE STATUS REFLECTS A COMMITMENT TO CANADA WHICH WE RECOGNIZE AND RESPECT. IT WILL HAVE NO IMPACT ON THE FEES PAID BY STUDENTS FROM OTHER PROVINCES OF CANADA, WHOSE FEES WILL CONTINUE TO BE EXACTLY THE SAME AS THOSE FOR ONTARIO RESIDENTS.

OTHER GROUPS EXEMPT FROM THE NEW POLICY ARE THE DEPENDENTS OF PEOPLE SUCH AS DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR OFFICIALS ADMITTED TO CANADA UNDER SECTION 7(1)(A) OF THE IMMIGRATION ACT AND THE DEPENDENTS OF PEOPLE ADMITTED TO CANADA FOR THE TEMPORARY EXERCISE OF THEIR PROFESSION, TRADE OR OCCUPATION UNDER SECTION 7 (1)(H) OF THE ACT.

MR. SPEAKER, THIS NEW POLICY IS NOT INTENDED TO RECOVER FOR ONTARIO THE FULL COSTS OF EDUCATING FOREIGN STUDENTS. HOWEVER, IT ESTABLISHES IN THE PROVINCE A SITUATION SIMILAR TO THAT FACED BY MANY CANADIAN STUDENTS STUDYING IN OTHER COUNTRIES. IN PUBLICLY FUNDED POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTIONS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND THE UNITED STATES, FOR EXAMPLE, CANADIAN STUDENTS PAY HIGHER FEES THAN CITIZENS OF THOSE TWO COUNTRIES BUT ARE NOT GENERALLY ASKED TO MEET THE FULL COSTS OF THEIR EDUCATION.

PRACTICES WITH RESPECT TO FOREIGN STUDENTS ATTENDING INSTITUTIONS IN ONTARIO ARE A COMPLEX ISSUE. IN FORMULATING OUR PROPOSALS WE HAVE HAD SUBSTANTIAL DISCUSSIONS WITH THE FEDERAL DEPARTMENT OF MANPOWER AND IMMIGRATION.

IN VIEW OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES I HAVE OUTLINED, I BELIEVE OUR NEW POLICY IS A REASONABLE AND REALISTIC STEP FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO TAKE AT THIS TIME.

